

## Message Text

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43

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AS-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

----- 054331

R 172306Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

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AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
NOVEMBER 17, 1975:

Q. IS AMBASSADOR MURPHY STILL IN WASHINGTON?

A. YES, HE IS.

Q. HOW LONG FOR?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE CONSULTATIONS ARE NOT OVER YET?

A. CORRECT.

Q. DO WE KNOW WHAT THE AGENDA WILL BE FOR THE MEETING  
TUESDAY BETWEEN MR. WALDHEIM AND MR. KISSINGER?

A. NO. I DO NOT HAVE THAT EITHER.

Q. IS IT FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE  
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DISCUSSED -- AND, PARTICULARLY, THE ISSUE OF THE  
ZIONIST RESOLUTION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THE LATTER, BUT IT IS A VERY  
FAIR ASSUMPTION TO MAKE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD ENTER  
INTO THEIR DISCUSSION TOMORROW.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANYBODY

IN THE MIDDLE EAST ABOUT THE REPORTS ON BLACK-LISTING  
SHIPS GOING THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL?

A. NO. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING MORE ON THAT SINCE  
LAST WEEK.

Q. CAN WE GO BACK TO THE SAUNDER'S STATEMENT FOR JUST  
A FEW QUESTIONS? IN THE FIRST PLACE, DID THE SECRETARY  
CLEAR THE STATEMENT THAT MR. SAUNDERS MADE TO THE  
CONGRESS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY  
CLEARED THAT STATEMENT. AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMITTEE  
ASKED MR. SAUNDERS TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY  
ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AS WELL AS OUR ANALYSIS,  
AND HIS STATEMENT REALLY REPRESENTED A RESTATEMENT OF  
OUR POLICY.

Q. WELL, SO WE'RE NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT THE SECRETARY  
ACTUALLY KNEW WHAT WAS IN THE WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT  
MR. SAUNDERS PRESENTED.

A. I CANNOT SAY THAT THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY CLEARED  
THE TEXT WITH MR. SAUNDERS --

Q. BUT WOULD YOU AGREE ABOUT --

A. -- BUT AS THE STATEMENT ONLY REPRESENTS A RESTATEMENT  
OF OUR POLICY, THEREFORE I AM SURE THAT HE WOULD AGREE  
WITH IT.

Q. WHY, IF IT REPRESENTS A RESTATEMENT, DID THE ISRAELIS  
GET UPSET ABOUT IT AND FAHMI SAY THAT IT WAS WONDERFUL?  
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A. I DO NOT KNOW. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK MR. FAHMI AND  
THE ISRAELIS.

Q. ARE WE SAYING HERE THAT -- IF THIS IS CORRECT, THAT  
IT'S A RESTATEMENT -- THAT WE CONSIDERED THE PLO AS THE  
MAJOR ELEMENT NOW IN THE CONTROVERSY?

A. I THINK WE STAND ON WHAT MR. SAUNDERS SAID AND  
WHAT IS IN THE TEXT. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE PHRASED  
IT EXACTLY THE WAY YOU ARE REPEATING IT TO ME NOW.

Q. WELL, THE ISRAELIS ARE SAYING -- IF THIS IS CORRECT,  
AND YOU OUGHT TO KNOW -- THAT AMERICAN POLICY HAD BEEN

THAT THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN AREA IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS WOULD BE SETTLED IN NEGOTIATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN. BUT THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE WAY SAUNDERS PRESENTED IT TO THE CONGRESS. AND WOULD YOU SAY THE RESTATEMENT -- WHEN WAS IT ORIGINALLY RESTATED? CAN YOU TELL US THAT?

A. WELL, I THINK, YOU KNOW, IN INNUMERABLE STATEMENTS WE HAVE STATED OUR POSITION ON THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PEACE, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IN UN RESOLUTIONS SINCE THE STATE OF ISRAEL WAS ESTABLISHED.

Q. THE PALESTINIANS, BUT NOT THE PLO.

Q. CAN YOU ASK FOR CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE ISRAELIS ON THIS INVOLVING THE PROTESTS THAT ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY REQUEST, BUT I DO KNOW THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF OUR POSITION AND THAT THE SAUNDERS' STATEMENT WAS A RESTATEMENT OF OUR POLICY AND DID NOT SIGNAL A CHANGE.

Q. WAS THE SAUNDERS' STATEMENT SHOWN TO ANYONE AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI EMBASSY BEFORE IT WAS DELIVERED TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPPLYING -- HAS AGREED TO SEND A SQUADRON OF MIG-25S TO SYRIA?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OF THAT REPORT, NO.

Q. HAS THE QUESTION BEEN ADDRESSED TO YOU ABOUT A REPORT ABOUT SAUDIA ARABIAN F-5S IN SYRIA? HAS THIS BEEN IN REFERENCE --

A. I THINK THAT WAS RAISED LAST WEEK WHEN THE PRESS REPORT APPEARED.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR ANSWER?

A. WELL, LET ME GIVE THE ANSWER TODAY. WE HAVE ONLY HAD PRESS REPORTS OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SAUDI AIRCRAFT

MIGHT BE PARTICIPATING IN MANEUVERS IN SYRIA.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SAUDIS TO TRY TO FIND OUT -- EITHER TO CONFIRM OR NOT?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q. YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY?

A. NOT AS IT IS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS. THERE IS NOT ANYTHING IN MANEUVERS OF THAT KIND WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT.

Q. ARE THESE AMERICAN PLANES?

Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY THIS LAST STATEMENT YOU MADE?

A. I DO NOT THINK I CAN GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID.

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Q. WELL, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WOULD ACCEPT SAUDI'S PLANES IN SYRIA?

A. WELL, THERE IS NOTHING THAT PREVENTS A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS RECEIVED EQUIPMENT UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT FROM PARTICIPATING IN MANEUVERS, AS LONG AS THE INITIAL OBLIGATION IN WHICH THEY ACCEPTED IT IS FILLED--WHICH WAS FOR LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE.

Q. I'M A LITTLE LOST HERE. IF WE ARE INVOLVED IN A LARGE SALES OF ARMS--WHICH I THINK WE ARE TO SAUDI ARABIA--AND SAUDI ARABIA PARTICIPATES IN MANEUVERS WITH SYRIA, WHICH IS A FRONT-LINE ARAB STATE--AND WE'RE ALSO SENDING ARMS TO ISRAEL--WHAT ARE WE DOING? I MEAN IF SYRIA CAN PARTICIPATE, IF SAUDI ARABIA CAN PARTICIPATE

WITH SYRIA, IS THIS NOT A CONTRIBUTION TO SYRIAN DEFENSE?

A. WELL, I DO NOT THINK IT IS, NECESSARILY; NO. I DO NOT THINK THAT NECESSARILY FOLLOWS -- IF SAUDI AIRCRAFT --

Q. WELL, THEN IT'S A SYRIAN OFFENSE. I MEAN I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS.

A. WELL, I THINK THAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT; AND I DO NOT THINK THE FACT, PER SE, THAT SAUDI AIRCRAFT MAY OR MAY NOT -- AND WE DO NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION -- HAVE ENGAGED IN SOME KIND OF MANEUVERS IN

SYRIAN AIRSPACE VIOLATES THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THEY  
ACQUIRED OR PURCHASED THE AIRPLANE.

Q. THEN THERE WOULD BE NO VIOLATION, AS FAR AS WE WERE  
CONCERNED, IF SAUDIS PARTICIPATED IN A SYRIAN ATTACK  
AGAINST ISRAEL.

A. WELL, THAT IS DIFFERENT.

Q. WHY?

A. WELL, I MEAN YOU ARE MAKING AN ASSUMPTION, ON  
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WHICH I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION, THAT THESE MANEUVERS  
SOMEHOW ARE RELATED TO AN OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST  
ISRAEL, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO THAT  
EFFECT.

Q. WHERE DID THESE MANEUVERS TAKE PLACE?

A. I DO NOT EVEN KNOW THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE.  
THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THERE MIGHT BE MANEUVERS  
IN SAUDI -- PARDON ME?

Q. IS THERE A SAUDI BRIGADE IN SYRIA NOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. ON THIS SYRIAN-SAUDI THING, CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH  
INFORMATION TOMORROW -- SAY, AS TO WHETHER THERE IS ANY  
SYRIAN FORCE, OR ANY SAUDI FORCE -- MILITARY FORCE IN  
SYRIA; WHETHER THEY ARE USING AMERICAN WEAPONS IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE SYRIANS, AND WHETHER ANY PLANES ARE  
BEING USED IN ANY WAY, OR ANY OF OUR EQUIPMENT IS BEING  
USED IN ANY WAY, BY SYRIAN MILITARY?

A. LET ME SEE IF I CAN LOCATE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION  
FOR YOU.

Q. CAN I ADD TO THAT ALSO WHETHER THE MANEUVERS THAT  
MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE WERE JOINT MANEUVERS OR WERE SAUDI  
MANEUVERS?

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## Message Attributes

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